**Development of Comprehension (Understanding)**

**Developmental Norm Chart (18 months – 5 years of age)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Would usually….** | **I should be concerned if…** | **Don’t worry if….** |
| **18 months – 1;11** | * **Understand basic everyday instructions e.g. Where is your shoe? or Show me your nose** * **Knows and turns when own name is called** | * **Child struggles to follow basic everyday instructions** * **Does not recognise or turn when own name is called** | * **Child does not understand complex instructions** * **Does not know colours/numbers** * **Cannot respond to questions** |
| **2;00 – 2;05** | * **Understands single words and most simple two word level commands (e.g. Where’s daddy’s nose?)** * **Understands questions such as what /where/who** * **Understands basic concepts such as big/little** | * **Does not respond to what /where questions (their responses can be verbal or non verbal, e.g. pointing)** * **Understanding not at a two word level.** | * **Child struggles to follow some longer complex instructions with abstract concepts** * **Does not know their colours /numbers** * **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary** * **Cannot respond to why questions** |
| **2;06 – 2;11** | * **Understand more complex instructions (2-3 word level)** * **Follows routines well** * **Shows an understanding of words such as “wet” “dry” “big” “little”** * **Understands simple stories** * **Listens with interest when spoken to** | * **Vague look when asked a simple question** * **Always follows what others are doing** * **Shows little interest in what is happening around them** * **Responses are not what you would expect e.g. “Where’s mummy?” child responds “Jack”** | * **Child struggles to follow some longer complex instructions** * **Does not know their colours/numbers** * **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary** * **Cannot respond to why questions** |
| **3;00 – 3;05** | * **Begins to understand the word “not”** * **Can start to identify objects in categories (e.g. can you find me the animals)** * **Understands simple stories** | * **Any of the above and/or** * **Child does not understand a simple story** * **Appears to only understand if shown what you mean with pictures /gestures** * **Finds it difficult to cope with change** * **You need to repeat yourself a lot** * **You need to break instructions down to help them understand** | * **Does not know their colours/numbers** * **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary** * **Cannot respond to why questions** * **Child is unable to easily follow an adult conversation but does try** |
| **3;06 – 3;11** | * **Answers questions such as “how did you get here”** * **Understands opposites** * **Beginning to understand the concept of time** * **Follows requests of several parts (e.g. ‘can you give the car to mummy and the cup to daddy’)** | * **Any of the above** * **Only seems to understand naming words** * **Finding it difficult to interact with peers; play tends to be more physical than imaginative** | * **Does not know their colours/numbers** * **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary** * **Cannot respond to why questions** * **Child is unable to easily follow an adult conversation but does try** |
| **4;00 – 5;00** | * **Follows adult conversation** * **Understands many time concepts (before, after, yesterday, tomorrow)** * **Follows conversations which may include the past or future** | * **Any of the above** * **Child talks in long sentences but it doesn’t seem related to the topic of conversation** | * **Does not know their colours/numbers** * **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary** * **Cannot respond to why questions** * **Child is unable to easily follow an adult conversation but does try** |